

January 13, 2005

### **Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior version, and listings, of claims in the application:

We claim :

1. (Currently Amended) A system for ~~diagnostic testing~~ sample collection comprising:  
a carrier comprising  
a first well,  
a second well, and  
a separator ~~that permits~~ within said carrier between said first well and said second well to enable said the carrier to be broken into two separate portions to enable said first well to be separated from ~~the~~ said second well ; and  
a specimen-handling tool.
2. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said the specimen-handling tool ~~being is~~ disposed about at least a portion of at least one of the said first well ~~and/or or said second wells well~~.
3. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 1 further comprising at least one plug disposed in at least one of said first well or said second well.
4. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 1 further comprising an overlying member positioned adjacent to ~~the said carrier so that the overlying member is~~ and disposed over at least a portion of ~~one of the~~ at least one of said first well or said second well wells.
5. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 4 further comprising a plug ~~disposed in at least one of the wells~~ said first well or said second well, the said plug

January 13, 2005

being attached to the said overlying member ~~so that, when the~~ to enable removal of said plug from said at least one of said first well or said second well upon removal of said overlying member is removed from the carrier, the plug is removed from the well.

6. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said the specimen-handling tool comprising comprises a pair of cooperating arms each of said pair of cooperating arms having a tip portion and a rear portion, said pair of cooperating arms being joined at said rear portion to form a joined end.

7. (Cancelled) ~~The system as claimed in claim 6, each arm of the specimen handling tool comprising a tip portion and a rear portion, the arms being joined to each other at their rear portions to form a joined end.~~

8. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 7, wherein at least one of said tip portion being is formed as a flat surface.

9. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 7, wherein said the joined end being formed to include forms a narrow projection.

10. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 6, wherein each of said pair of cooperating arms arm further comprising comprises a rearward arcuate portion, a forward arcuate portion, and an intermediate arcuate portion, the said intermediate arcuate portion being disposed between the said rearward arcuate portion and the said forward arcuate portion.

11. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 10, the arcuate portions being wherein said rearward arcuate portion, said forward arcuate portion, and said intermediate arcuate portion are configured so that the area disposed between the said pair of cooperating arms is substantially hourglass in shape.

12. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 1 further comprising indicia

January 13, 2005

disposed on ~~the~~ said carrier.

13. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of the said wells ~~having~~ has a frustoconical configuration.

14. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 1, ~~the~~ wherein said separator ~~comprising~~ is at least one perforation.

15. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 1, ~~the~~ wherein said separator ~~comprising~~ is a plurality of perforations.

16. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 1, ~~the~~ wherein said separator ~~comprising~~ is a depression.

17. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 1, ~~the~~ wherein said separator ~~comprising~~ is a an indentation.

18. (Currently Amended) A ~~diagnostic~~ system for sample collection comprising: a carrier comprising a first well, a second well, a cavity, and ~~means for separating~~ separation means to enable said carrier to be broken into two portions to separate the first well from the second well; and a specimen-handling tool ~~adapted~~ to manipulate a specimen; ~~the specimen-handling tool being adapted and configured~~ to fit within the said cavity of the carrier.

19. (Currently Amended) The diagnostic system as claimed in claim 18, wherein said the cavity ~~being~~ is configured so that the specimen-handling tool ~~is disposed~~ to dispose said specimen-handling tool about at least a portion of at least one of the said first or said second well wells.

20. (Currently Amended) The diagnostic system as claimed in claim 18, further comprising at least one plug disposed in at least one of the said first and/or or said second wells.

January 13, 2005

21. (Currently Amended) The diagnostic system as claimed in claim 18, further comprising an overlying member ~~positioned adjacent to the carrier so that the overlying member is and~~ disposed over at least a portion of at least one of the said first well or said and/or second wells well.

22. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 21 further comprising a plug ~~disposed in at least one of said first well or said second well the wells, the and plug being attached to the said overlying member so that, when the to enable removal of said plug from said at least one of said first well or said second well upon removal of said overlying member is removed from the carrier, the plug is removed from the well.~~

23. (Currently Amended) The diagnostic system as claimed in claim 21, ~~the wherein said overlying member being is~~ disposed over at least a portion of the said cavity.

24. (Currently Amended) The diagnostic system as claimed in claim 18 further comprising indicia disposed on the said carrier.

25. (Currently Amended) The diagnostic system as claimed in claim 18, ~~the wherein said specimen-handling tool comprises comprising~~ a pair of cooperating arms, each of said pair of cooperating arms having a tip portion and a rear portion and being joined at said rear portion to form a joined end.

26. (Cancelled) ~~The diagnostic system as claimed in claim 25, each arm of the specimen handling tool comprising a tip portion and a rear portion, the arms being joined to each other at their rear portions to form a joined end.~~

27. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 26, the wherein specimen-handling tool each of said pair of cooperating arms further comprising a rearward arcuate portion, a forward arcuate portion, and an intermediate arcuate portion disposed between the said rearward arcuate portion and the said forward arcuate portion, the arcuate portions being wherein said rearward arcuate portion, said forward arcuate

January 13, 2005

portion, and said intermediate arcuate portion are configured so that the area disposed between the said pair of cooperating arms is approximately hour-glass in shape.

28. (Currently Amended) The diagnostic system as claimed in claim 18, wherein said the carrier being is formed from polycarbonate.

29. (Currently Amended) The diagnostic system as claimed in claim 18, wherein at least one of said the wells having has a frustoconical configuration.

30. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 18, ~~the separator~~ wherein said separation means comprising is at least one perforation.

31. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 18, ~~the means for separating wherein said separation means comprising is~~ is a plurality of perforations.

32. .(Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 18, ~~the means for separating wherein said separation means comprising is~~ is a depression.

33. (Currently Amended)The system as claimed in claim 18, ~~the means for separating wherein said separation means comprising is~~ is an indentation.